



March 12, 2019

Representative Mike Freiberg
Chair, House Government Operations Committee
509 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Chair Freiberg and Esteemed Committee Members,

On behalf of Medical Alley Association and its more than 600 members that make up Minnesota's health innovation and care industry, I am writing in support of House File 684, authored by Representative Alice Mann, that creates a Rare Diseases Advisory Council.

Medical Alley Association members are innovating every day to save lives and improve patient outcomes in a variety of ways. Patients are living longer, healthier lives thanks to new medical devices, personalized medicine, and advances in digital health that were created because our members work constantly to improve patient outcomes in less invasive and more cost-effective ways.

The Rare Diseases Advisory Council will be a resource for families who have a member with a rare disease. This Council will provide information about treatment, coverages, and general material about the disease that will help families better understand what their options are and what their next steps should be. Nearly two million Minnesotans are impacted by rare diseases through family and friends. This Council will provide them a voice and help give them hope – by connecting them with others impacted and with critical information.

This Council also seeks to leverage Minnesota's position as a global leader in health research. Already, the University of Minnesota – a world-class research institution – and the world-renowned Mayo Clinic are on the forefront of developing treatments and cures for the toughest diseases. This council will serve as a catalyst for translational research by bringing the significant expertise and resources at each of these institutions together with other Minnesota experts, and lead to better, more accessible treatments and cures for those impacted by rare diseases.

Medical Alley Association supports HF684 and asks for the committee's support to move this bill forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Bobby Patrick, VI'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a stylized 'P' and 'VI'.

Bobby Patrick, VI
Director, Government Relations
Medical Alley Association